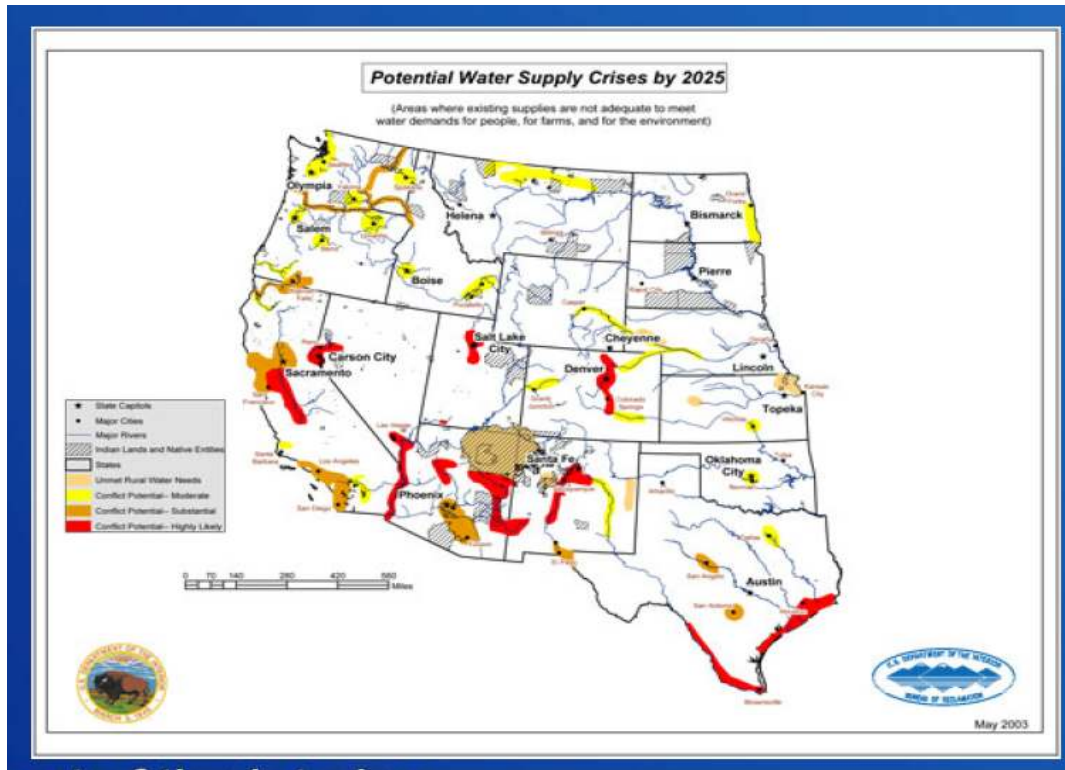


## The Future of Water Use in Phoenix



### **Get ready to pay more for your water in the future.**

A region that uses two-thirds of its water outdoors, and mostly for agriculture, will have to find ways of sharing and boosting efficiency — a shift that many experts believe will mean city dwellers paying to upgrade rural irrigation systems.

Cities such as Phoenix and Las Vegas, which have reduced their per-person water usage through better landscaping and appliances, will have to do better. They lag behind Los Angeles, whose growing population, by necessity, uses no more water than it did 40 years ago.

A 2012 government study of supply and demand predicted a 2060 annual shortfall of nearly a trillion gallons — enough to cover the sprawling city of Phoenix 9 feet deep or to supply 6 million Southwestern households for a year.

### **The outlook—Get ready for a future of water conservation**

If the government declares a Lake Mead shortage because the water drops below the mandated trigger elevation of 1,075 feet projected by 2017 Arizona would lose 320,000 acre-feet every year that the water is so low. If Lake Mead drops another 25 feet after the first shortage, central Arizona would lose nearly a third of what it draws off the Colorado.

To prepare for an era of less available water, all water users will have to take conservation measures. Ranchers and farmers will be modernizing irrigation equipment and changing watering schedules—this can save as much as a million acre-feet a year.

Phoenix residential water consumers will also take measures to reduce water consumption, and may be asked in the future to only use irrigation watering on just three days a week. As prices increase, people will have to take measures to decrease the amount of water they use, such as more efficient plumbing and irrigation methods.